Cluster development of industries

1251. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme called UPTECH on technology Upgradation and Management Programme was launched in 1998 for cluster of industries etc.;

(b) if so, the details of important work done under the scheme for cluster development and its impact on the Small Scale Industries; and

(c) the details of ambitious projects proposed to be undertaken under the scheme during 2005-06 and 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme named Integrated Technology Upgradation and Management Programme (UPTECH) was launched by the Government in February, 1998 for upgradation of technology of Small Scale Industries (SSI) in identified cluster. This scheme was renamed as Small Industry Cluster Development Programme (SICDP) in the year 2003 and its scope was enlarged to include holistic development of SSI clusters.

(b) Under UPTECH and SICDP together, 75 clusters have been taken up till date for development. The important promotional work done so far in these clusters includes diagnostic study of the clusters, framing of action plan for development of each cluster and implementation of the action plan in the areas of technology upgradation, marketing and export promotion, creation of common facility services, etc. The impact of these activities has been observed in increased sales through joint marketing and participation in fairs, adoption of world class manufacturing practices, better quality management, cost reduction, energy conservation, creation of mutual credit guarantee systems, acquisition of ISO certification, product diversification and skill development of workers including women, in specific clusters.

(c) In addition to continuing with the clusters already taken up, the target for 2005-06 is development of 25 new clusters.

Assistance for SSIs in Tamil Nadu

1252. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state: